



Active Lives: Children and Young People Survey Impact Report 2023-24

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Introduction

The Active Lives Children and Young People survey from Sport England provides a world-leading approach to gathering data on how children engage in sport and physical activity. The survey measures participation and attitudes towards sport, physical activity and wellbeing among children in school years 1 to 11 across the county.

Project background

The Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership has been tasked with administering the Active Lives Children and Young People survey within Hertfordshire for the past six years and is issued with a list of schools and specific year groups each term.

Data gathered in the survey relates to peoples' sporting and physical activity habits, swimming ability, well-being, volunteering, and even sports spectating. For younger children, the questions are appropriately worded and complemented by images to help identify different types of activity, including playground games and active travel.



Implementation

Sport England share the list of randomly pre-selected schools at the start of each term, and the Partnership contacts them via email to invite them to take part. The email highlights several benefits for taking including Ofsted, PE planning and the Healthy Schools Rating, in addition to the opportunity to gain credits for sport and physical activity equipment.

Once a school engages, they are sent the unique survey links and supporting documentation from a designated project inbox and can start co-ordinating the survey at their school. The Active Lives Lead will then stay in regular contact throughout the term, providing updates on the number of survey response that have been recorded on the monitoring dashboard. Every effort goes in to ensuring those engaged reach the threshold of valid responses required so that they can earn a report and the equipment credits.

The Hertfordshire School Games Organisers help to raise the profile of the survey with the schools in their School Sport Partnerships and provide introductions to the PE Leads / relevant staff member.



“My PE Lead and I found the report we received to be a very valuable resource for student voice and led us to create more opportunities based on the feedback of our school community. In doing this we have seen the number of pupils at our lunch time and after school clubs grow because we are now offering more of what our young people wanted to get involved with.”

Engagement

206

Schools randomly selected to take part

56

Reports generated

Outcomes and Benefits

For the period April 23 to March 24, 56 reports were generated across Hertfordshire, which will help schools to develop their provision based on the unique findings. The report covers measures of children's activity levels, physical literacy, swimming proficiency, wellbeing, self-efficacy and levels of social trust, so schools can use this to better understand their pupils needs, which is a fantastic Youth Voice tool.

Responses in the survey are categorised as attitudinal or behavioural, and as a county Hertfordshire recorded 4, 960 and 4, 434 responses respectively which is pleasing. However, not all Local Authority areas met the required target of 300 responses in each of these categories, so unfortunately the total response rate cannot be said to represent the whole county.

Key Learnings

- The use of Chromebooks flagged some issues in schools during this period, so the Partnership is working with Ipsos Mori (survey platform provider) to find a solution.
- Several schools are being randomly pre-selected year on year and are now becoming reluctant to participate. The Partnership needs to approach these situations with caution as although it administers the survey on behalf of Sport England, it needs to ensure that the overall relationship with the school remains positive, given that there will be other opportunities to work alongside the school outside of the survey.
- The main ask of the Partnership is to administer the survey, but more work could perhaps be done once a school receives the report, helping them to review and identify suitable opportunities as a result of the findings.

Next Steps

1

Continue

to work with Ipsos Mori to find a solution for the Chromebook issue.

2

Support schools who have been randomly pre-selected to participate in Summer Term 2024.

3

Explore

whether the Partnership and / or Herts SGOs can provide follow up consultation meetings to support schools with reviewing and developing their PE and School Sport provision based on the report findings.



Conclusion

The Partnership continues to support schools with participating in the Active Lives Children and Young People survey alongside the Hertfordshire School Games Organisers. Whilst the approach to engage schools continues to be effective, the Partnership could do more for helping schools review and develop their provision based on the report findings. However, discussions are needed as to who would be best placed to do this in terms of knowledge and capacity.



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